

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010348US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10348

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 3, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 3, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1–20 are pending in the application. Claims 1–2, 4–6, 8–12 and 14–20 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 3, 7 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1–2, 4–6, 8–9, 12 and 15–17 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1–7, 9–13 and 15–19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Wimble* (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,850). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Moreover, the elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, *Wimble* fails to disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim," and thus fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Specifically, *Wimble* fails to disclose determining whether to display a data element accessed during the step-by-step execution of executable code during a debugging session. The Examiner argues that *Wimble* discloses this step at *Wimble*, 7:61–67. The cited material however, is directed to a display of data in the stack space of a program being debugged. Specifically, the "stack viewer" disclosed in the cited passage is configured to display "one part of the dynamic state of the program—the program call stack—which displays the functions that are currently called as subroutines." *Wimble*, 7:64–67.

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In contrast, Applicants claim a method for debugging a computer program that "conceals selected information from a user debugging the source code." *Application*, ¶ 36. The concealed items are data elements accessed by the program from the data repository during the step-by-step execution of the program being debugged.

In other words, Applicants' claim concealing the display of confidential information retrieved from a database by a computer program, while the program is being debugged. By determining whether to display a data element accessed during a debugging session, Applicants' invention allows a user to debug a computer program operating in a production environment, without being provided access to confidential or proprietary data.

Additionally, *Wimble* fails to disclose debugging a program, wherein the program is configured to access data from a data repository. *Wimble* discloses "A human oriented object programming system ... for debugging computer programs ... such as operating systems and large applications with graphic [sic] user interfaces (GUIs)." *Wimble*, Abstract. As part of its operation, the debugger disclosed by *Wimble* "uses a database of information relating machine executable code to source code. The database is developed during the compilation process using an extensible object-oriented set of tools." *Wimble*, Abstract. In other words, *Wimble* discloses building a database of information related to the program being debugged, expressly for debugging purposes. *Wimble* 7:29-39. The accessed database is part of the debugging system, and not, a database accessed by the operations of the executable code being debugged.

The Examiner cites *Wimble*, 8:19-26 to support the assertion that *Wimble* discloses "accessing data from the repository." This cited passage, however, describes the database referenced by *Wimble*, Abstract, in that it is a database "which represent[s] the process and threads. Properties in these components contain data that change during the execution of the program. This data includes memory, registers, and state, which allow the Debugger to control the debugged program." *Wimble*, 8:19-26. Clearly, the database disclosed by *Wimble* is used to aid the debugging process by

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storing data that would be useful to display to a user operating the debugger. Accordingly, none of this information would ever need to be concealed from the user debugging the program.

Similarly, regarding claim 16, Applicants assert that *Wimble* fails to disclose a debug engine configured to selectively pass data to the debugger user interface. Moreover, the material cited by the Examiner to reject claim 16 fails to disclose a debugger user interface. According to Applicants' invention the "[debugger] user interface presents the program under debugging ... and highlights the current line of the program on which a stop or error occurs. The user interface allows the user to set control points ..., display and change variable values, and activate other inventive features described herein by inputting the appropriate commands. *Application*, ¶ 32.

The Examiner asserts that *Wimble*, discloses a debugger user interface in Figure 1, element #22. The description accompanying this element, however, is directed to a computer system that includes "a user interface adapter 22 for connecting a Keyboard, a Mouse, a Speaker, a Disk drive, and/or other user interface devices." *Wimble*, 5:56-60. Applicants respectfully assert that the disclosure of an interface for connecting interface devices fails to disclose the user debugger interface of the claimed invention. Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering the swift prosecution of the present application, Applicants concede that displaying information on a user interface is known. However, Applicants respectfully assert that *Wimble* fails to disclose a user debugger interface configured to selectively conceal the display of data by the program being debugged according to predefined access restriction rules defining at least one rule prohibiting at least some data from being displayed to a user.

For all foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 9, and 16 are patentable over *Wimble*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 2 – 7, 10 – 13, 15, and 17 – 19, each of these claims is dependent from claim 1, 9 or 16. Applicants submit that because *Wimble* fails anticipate Applicants' invention, for the reasons stated above, the rejection of claims 2 – 7, 10 – 13, 15, and 17 – 19 is obviated without the need for further remarks by

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Applicants. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

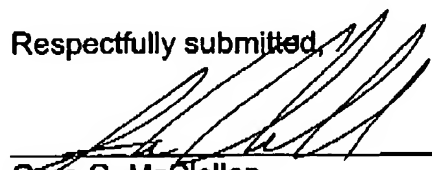
Claims 8, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wimble* in view of *Kolawa et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,029, hereinafter *Kolawa*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claims 8, 14, and 20, each of these claims is dependent from claim 1, 9 or 16. Applicants submit that because *Wimble* fails anticipate Applicants' invention, for the reasons stated above, the rejection of claims 8, 14, and 20 is obviated without the need for further remarks by Applicants. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow the claims.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants

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